



Jai Bhavani!

PAYING OBEISANCE TO *GOLMAAL*

Would you believe Rekha was Hrishikesh Mukherjee's first choice to play the role of Urmī in *Golmaal*? But then he decided it wouldn't be fair to take advantage of the rapport he had with Rekha and waste her in a small role. So he chose Bindiya Goswami instead.

And thank God for that. Because, with all due respect to the senior actress, the *Golmaal* we know wouldn't have been quite the same with her glamorous presence. And who would like to change even the tiniest detail in this much-loved movie?

Perfectly tuned performances, a brilliant script, a great screenplay, music we remember... all brought together by the genius of Hrishikesh Mukherjee in a classic laugh riot that many consider the funniest Hindi film ever made.

Golmaal was not your typical love story; it didn't have a conventional hero or glamour-puss heroine playing star-crossed lovers, there was no villainous father or a slit-eyed mother-in-law. There was action — oh, plenty of it — but not the *dishum-dishum* variety. It was all so normal and everyday and yet so quirky and hilarious.

Utpal Dutt, with some inspired hamming, dominated the film, but none of the other characters lost out. The script, written by Shailesh Dey and the dialogue, by the late Rahi Masoom Reza, saw to that wonderfully.

Hrishida wanted his characters to look plain and down-to-earth; only then would they tickle the audience, he points out. "Amol's boy-next-door looks complemented Utpal Dutt's grim but whacky face wonderfully. The chemistry was perfect."

Surprisingly, when Hrishida first called Amol to offer him the role of Ramprasad-Laxmanprasad, Amol wanted to refuse the offer! He confesses, "Hrishida had the reputation of not narrating the script before offering a role. And I never accept anything without listening to the script. When I did get to hear the script, however, I

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—HRISHIKESH MUKHERJEE

